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From the Office of the Director of Health

Expanded Hours Offered for HIV Testing on National HIV Testing Day

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department in partnership with AIDS Project of the Ozarks (APO) supports National HIV Testing Day on June 27th with no cost, walk-in testing clinics at two Springfield locations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 180,000 to 280,000 people nationwide are HIV-positive, but are unaware of their status. Health Department HIV case manager Caryn Burk says, "On National HIV Testing Day we encourage individuals to get a test and find out their HIV status. By knowing their status they can take steps to protect their own health and the health of others."

On June 27th the health department will offer HIV testing at no cost from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 227 E. Chestnut Expressway. AIDS Project of the Ozarks will offer no cost testing at a walk-in clinic from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 1901 E. Bennett. Both agencies offer no cost testing year-round to southwest Missouri residents.

APO Executive Director Lynne Meyerkord says, "According to the CDC the number of Americans living with HIV/AIDS increased twenty-five percent between 2002 and 2003. There are now more than one million people living with the disease. A person can be infected with HIV and live with the virus for many years without symptoms and may feel healthy. Individuals need to be tested in order to begin treatment."

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department and AIDS Project of the Ozarks join others around the nation June 27th in encouraging individuals to "Take the test. Take control. Get tested for HIV."

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